

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 26-30 were presented for examination. The final Office Action dated August 8, 2006 rejects claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, and allows claims 1-22, 24, and 26-30. Applicants thank Examiner Dalencourt for the allowance of claims 1-22, 24, and 26-30. This amendment cancels claims 22-23, leaving only allowed claims 1-22, 24, and 26-30 pending in the application, and thus placing the application into condition for allowance.

The Applicants further thank the Examiner for his time and courtesy during both October 5, 2006 telephone calls and the October 10, 2006 telephone call with Applicants' representative, Michael Rodriguez.

During the first October 5, 2006 telephone call, Examiner Dalencourt and Attorney Rodriguez discussed the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of claims 22 and 23. Rather than argue the rejection now, Applicants cancel claims 22 and 23 and reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a co-pending continuation application.

After the conclusion of the telephone call, Examiner Dalencourt called Attorney Rodriguez back to suggest amending claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 3. Attorney Rodriguez replied that the proposed amendment would not be made because the present Office Action already allows claim 1. Examiner Dalencourt then reserved the right to perform another search after he receives the Applicants' response. On October 10, 2006, Attorney Rodriguez telephoned Examiner Dalencourt for a clarification of the purpose of this search. Examiner Dalencourt explained that an update search looks for prior art that may have emerged since the previous search. Again, Applicants' thank the Examiner for his hard work, time, and courtesy throughout, and earnestly

solicit from him a Notice of Allowance because all claims still pending in the application are presently allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003 ext. 12.

Respectfully submitted,

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